Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3190

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANJUL POUCH

AMEMBASSY BISSAU POUCH

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CONFIDENTIAL DAKAR 1831

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PEPR, SHUM, LI, GV, SG, IV

SUBJECT: GUINEAN RECONCILIATION WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES

REF: (A) DAKAR 1805 (NOTAL), (B) CONAKRY 471 (NOTAL), (C) STATE 35558, (D) CONAKRY 409 (NOTAL)

- 1. AS REPORTED REF A, SENEGALESE APPEAR COMMITTED TO PARTICIPATE IN MONROVIA SUMMIT, DESPITE ABSENCE OF ANY DIRECT OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION FROM SEKOU TOURE CONFIRMING HIS CHANGE OF HEART TOWARD SENEGAL. PRESIDENT SENGHOR TOLD ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR EARLIER THIS WEEK THAT SUMMIT WAS SET FOR MARCH 18. CORROBORATING INFORMATION CONTAINED REF B.
- 2. PREOCCUPATION OF SENIOR SENEGALESE LEADERS WITH PREPARATION FOR AND AFTERMATH OF NATIONWIDE PRESIDENTIAL, LEGISLATIVE CONFIDENTIAL

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AND LOCAL ELECTIONS HAS SEVERELY LIMITED OCCASIONS FOR DISCUSSION OF GUINEAN RECONCILIATION WITH OFFICERS OF THIS EMBASSY. HOWEVER, IN RECENT MEETINGS (REF A) WITH PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISER, FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND PRESIDENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, EMBOFF DREW ON LANGUAGE CONTAINED REF C TO EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE

WHICH GUINEAN RECONCILIATION IN GENERAL AND MONROVIA SUMMIT IN PARTICULAR COULD HAVE FOR WEST AFRICA. EMBOFF CITED GUINEAN DROUGHT TOUR INCORPORATING U.S. OFFICERS (REF D) AMONG RECENT INDICATIONS THAT GUINEA HAS ADOPTED MORE OPEN-MINDED, PRAGMATIC OUTLOOK.

3. SENEGALESE AGREED WHOLEHEARTEDLY WITH DESIRABILITY OF RECONCILATION, LOOKING FORWARD OPTIMISTICALLY TO EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS AND GUINEA'S ADHESION TO SENEGAL RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (OMVS), WHICH HAS ALWAYS LEFT DOOR OPEN FOR GUINEAN PARTICIPATION. HOWEVER, GIVEN SEKOU TOURE'S TRACK RECORD, SENEGALESE REMAIN CLEARLY NERVOUS THAT ANOTHER ABOUT-FACE COULD BE AROUND CORNER, EITHER BEFORE, AT OR AFTER SUMMIT. THERE IS ACCORDINGLY MUCH SPECULATION ABOUT GUINEAN MOTIVES. FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE OBSERVED THAT GUINEAN ATTITUDE TOWARD SENEGAL TENDED TO BE COROLLARY OF CONAKRY'S RELATIONS WITH FRANCE; HE SPECULATED THAT RECENT POSITIVE GESTURES TOWARD DAKAR STEMMED MORE FROM CURRENT GUINEAN DESIRE FOR IMPROVED TIES AND INCREASED ASSISTANCE FROM FRENCH THAN FROM ANY STRONG COMMITMENT TO RESTORING GOOD RELATIONS WITH SENEGAL IN ITS OWN RIGHT. COHEN

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